

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4009

To authorize a study of the equity of Forest Service funding allocations
among the nine regions of the National Forest System.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 1994

Mr. RICHARDSON (for himself, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. STUMP, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. KYL, Mr. PASTOR, and Ms. ENGLISH of Arizona) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To authorize a study of the equity of Forest Service funding allocations among the nine regions of the National Forest System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Forest Service Equity
5 Study Act of 1994”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Data supplied by the Forest Service indi-
9 cates that some of the regions of the National For-

1 est System receive more funding on a per unit basis
2 than other regions for recreation management, wild-
3 life and fish management, road maintenance, and
4 other activities.

5 (2) The ecological integrity of some of the re-
6 gions is compromised by the funding disparity be-
7 tween regions.

8 (3) The funding levels of the Forest Service for
9 the various regions should be equitable, and signifi-
10 cant disparities in funding should be eliminated.

11 (4) The funding methodology and practices of
12 the Forest Service should support the policy goals of
13 the National Forest System, particularly ecosystem
14 management.

15 (5) The regional funding methodology and prac-
16 tices of the Forest Service should reflect the diverse
17 needs of the national forests.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 As used in this Act:

20 (1) The term “funding” means the annual fis-
21 cal year allocation received by each region.

22 (2) The term “region” means one of the nine
23 regions into which the Forest Service divides the
24 United States for purposes of planning and imple-
25 menting activities in the National Forest System.

1 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
2 of Agriculture.

3 (4) The term “unit” refers to measures of use
4 or activity in the National Forest System, includ-
5 ing—

6 (A) visitor days;

7 (B) nontimber acreage;

8 (C) miles maintained;

9 (D) animal unit months;

10 (E) people at one time (PAOT) days; and

11 (F) any other measure of use or activity
12 commonly associated with the regions.

13 **SEC. 4. STUDY OF THE EQUITY OF FUNDING ALLOCATIONS**
14 **AMONG REGIONS OF THE NATIONAL FOREST**
15 **SYSTEM.**

16 (a) AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT STUDY.—During
17 the one-year period beginning on the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study ex-
19 amining the system by which the Forest Service allocates
20 funding to each region of the National Forest System.

21 (b) SUBJECT OF STUDY.—As part of the study under
22 subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

23 (1) analyze the methodology and rationale be-
24 hind funding decisions regarding the regions that
25 were made prior to the date the study is conducted;

1 (2) examine the equity of allocations among re-
2 gions, taking into account the unit burdens of each
3 region; and

4 (3) examine the relationships between funding
5 allocations, Forest Service goals, and the diverse
6 needs of the regions based on ecological factors, such
7 as threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, for-
8 est health, rangeland and watershed conditions, and
9 public demand for multiple use services.

10 (c) CONTRACT.—The Secretary may enter into a con-
11 tract with an independent entity to carry out the study
12 under subsection (a).

13 (d) REPORT.—Upon completion of the study under
14 subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit a report to Con-
15 gress that includes the following:

16 (1) The results of the study.

17 (2) Recommendations for changes and improve-
18 ments in the system by which the Forest Service al-
19 locates funding among the regions to ensure equi-
20 table funding for each region and to eliminate fund-
21 ing disparities among regions.

22 (3) Recommendations for changes in funding
23 patterns among the regions to reflect Forest Service
24 goals and regional needs.

1 (4) An assessment of whether the recommended
2 changes can be implemented administratively or will
3 require congressional action.

4 (5) A plan for implementation of the rec-
5 ommended changes.

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
8 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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